



Atty. Dkt. No. 048369-0117

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Yuji YAMAMOTO et al.

Title: LIQUID-CRYSTAL DISPLAY
PANEL AND METHOD FOR
MANUFACTURING SAME

Appl. No.: 09/594,721

Filing Date: 06/16/2000

Examiner: T. Rude

Art Unit: 2871

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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
UNDER 37 CFR §1.56

Commissioner for Patents
PO Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Sir:

Submitted herewith on a modified Form PTO-SB08 is a listing of document(s) known to Applicant in order to comply with Applicant's duty of disclosure pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.56. A copy of the listed document(s) is being submitted to comply with the provisions of 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97-1.98.

The submission of any document herewith, which is not a statutory bar, is not intended as an admission that such document constitutes prior art against the claims of the present application or that such document is considered material to patentability as defined in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(b). Applicant does not waive any rights to take any action which would be appropriate to antedate or otherwise remove as a competent reference any document which is determined to be a prima facie prior art reference against the claims of the present application.

TIMING OF THE DISCLOSURE

The instant Information Disclosure Statement is being filed after the mailing date of a final action but before the payment of the issue fee under the provisions of 37 C.F.R. §

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1.97(d), and is accompanied by a statement specified in 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e) and a fee set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p).

RELEVANCE OF EACH DOCUMENT

The document(s) listed on the attached PTO-1449 were cited as being relevant during the prosecution of the corresponding Japanese application. A copy of an English language abstract of the listed documents, if available, is being provided. The absence of a translation or an English-language counterpart document does not relieve the PTO from its duty to consider this document (37 C.F.R. § 1.98 and M.P.E.P. § 609).

The Examiner in the corresponding Japanese patent application has commented as follows:

(1) The present application is related to a liquid crystal display element, and as can be understood from the description in the Scope of Patent Claims, a patent is being sought for an invention wherein a liquid crystal layer space is formed by providing column-shaped spacers in the elements.

(2) However, the means used in the invention of the present application is to manufacture liquid crystal display elements by using photo-etching technology to form column-shaped spacers, and this is a widely-used means, for example, as disclosed in US Patent Nos. 4904056 and 4763995. Using photo-etching technology to form spacers into "discretionary shapes" in "discretionary positions" on the substrate is self-evident and easily obtainable, and no progress is provided by the invention of the present application.

(3) Attached documents: One copy each of US Patent Nos. 4904056 and 4763995.

FEE

A fee in the amount of \$180.00 in accordance with 37 CFR 1.17(p) is attached.

CERTIFICATION

The undersigned hereby certifies in accordance with 37 CFR 1.97(e)(1) that each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in a

communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three (3) months prior to the filing of this Statement.

Applicant respectfully requests that any listed document be considered by the Examiner and be made of record in the present application and that an initialed copy of Form PTO/SB/08 be returned in accordance with M.P.E.P. § 609.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 CFR §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

Date September 12, 2003

By 

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